## TAKING A FAMILY BACK TO THE SOIL

Being the Experiences of a Government Clerk Who Sets Out to Lower the High Cost of

It makes a man wonder sometimes the weather is regulated. One thing is last March has had little, if any, to do with the needs of the farmer. It might have been worse, of course; but there isn't any denial that it might have been whole lot better.

Farmers always have been accused of always, so their critics say, is either too et or too dry, or too hot or too cold. But don't be in too big a hurry, you folks who live in cities, to condemn the farmer as a weather grumbler. His concertain kinds of weather at certain times of year—an equitable distribution of rain and warmth and sunshine are of rain and warmth and sunshine—are necessary to grow and mature his crops. His interest in the success of crops is a vital one; but it is no more vital than is yours. You have to eat, don't you? And you can't eat if the farmer's crops are a failure. When you grumble, therefore, because the weather interferes with some particular pleasure you had planned or some particular clothes you wanted to wear, just bear in mind that the farmer's grumbling is foundationed in more substantial things.

### "Corn Weather" Badly Needed.

With corn selling at a dollar a bushel, and promising to go higher, good "corn weather" is absolutely essential to na-tional prosperity. Good corn weather consists of an abundance of moisture and lots of heat. We have moisture in superabundance, but no heat at all, speaking from a corn-growing point of

You don't eat corn, you say, and the troubles of the corn grower don't interest you? You eat beef and pork and mutton, don't you, and want fresh eggs at a reasonable price next winter? The prices of all these commodities are go-ing to be affected very materially by the kind of weather we have during the

ing to be affected very materially by the kind of weather we have during the next few weeks. If the corn crop is short a quarter of a million bushels because of the prolonged cold weather, you will have to help foot the bill. The grumbling the farmer is doing today isn't a marker to what you will do at next winter's high prices.

All of which goes to show that, in the complex civilization of today, the fortunes of one class of people, whether good or ill, are the concern of all. It is true that the success or failure of the few acres we have in corn at Sunny Knoll isn't going to make a very large impress on the total crop of America; but the conditions we are confronting are being confronted by farmers pretty generally throughout the country. And with three acres in corn it is just as much a relief to our feelings to stand up and howl as it is to the feelings of the man who has a 300-acre corn field.

Corn Not Sole Sufferer.

## Corn Not Sole Sufferer.

It isn't corn alone that is suffering from adverse weather conditions. All ns—with a few notable exceptions— more or less affected. A season ch started out with the highest which started out with the promise has turned square around and promise has turned square around and, today, is very much to the bad. Conditions may improve, of course; every one hopes they will. But rural weather prophets out our way predict that when hot weather does set in it will be both hot and dry for so long a time that we will be hollerin' about drought as loudly as we are now about cold and rain.

will be noterin about drought as foundy as we are now about cold and rain.

Philosophers tell us, though, that it is foolish to always look on the dark side of things. Nature, I have observed, is very strong on the law of compensations; and there is no use trying to deny that there is some brightness mixed up with the prevailing gloom. For instance, never within the memory of the oldest inhabitant were pastures so good. Peas revel in the prevailing weather, and potatoes have no kick coming; but most everything else in the vegetable line is suffering. Lima beans planted April 15 are no farther advanced than others planted May I, and the stands of early planted heans and other warm weather plants are poor.

# Concerned Over Popcorn.

lack of warmth. They have made a large planting and are counting on having a profit of from \$100 to \$150. I am very anxious they should win out, I am very anxious they should win out, as I believe it would be a valuable object lesson on the possibilities of agriculture, and there isn't any object lesson so impressive as one that is measured in actual dollars and cents. I would be glad if both the boys I would be glad if both the boys would show an inclination to make farming their life work, though I have some doubts whether Ned was cut out to be a farmer. If he has no adaptability for the life I would not, of course, want to persuade him into it, but he is young yet and if he could make some substantial earnings as a boy he might develope the interest which now seems to be lacking.

Jim, I believe, would like farming and make a success of it. He is keenly interested in everything that pertains



concerned over their popcor venture.

contentment which go with such a life. Now that Sunny Knoll consists of eighteen acres instead of eight, it has

### Five Years to Get Ready.

good health, it is to be hoped, inured to the hard work of a farm, and with an appetite like a horse and a digestion like an ostrich. I don't need need to wait five years for the appetite and to wait five years for the appetite and the digestion. Jane used to become downright alarmed at the way I ate last summer, but last year I was a mere dilettante at the table compared with the able trencherman I am today. Five years, Jane contends, will seem but a short while when we are working toward a definite objective. We spent the first thirteen years of our married life simply working, without anything much in view except to pay the rent and get food and clothing. We were thankful if we came out even at the end of the year, and we had no vision of any happier or more hopeful life until this "back to the soil" ambition laid its hold upon us.

Honestly, as I look back now I don't see how I endured those thirteen years. It isn't that our home life was unhappy or that we lacked the interest normal parents have in their children; but the years were so empty of pur-



hopes they will.

pose and of plans and hope for the fu-ture. My salary was \$1,000 a year when we were married, and one promo-tion of \$200 a year was the only one I ever had. As the family increased our wants and necessities grew, and the cost of living went up and up and up. I realized all the time, dully and with-out plan, that I ought to do something to better conditions, but I didn't know what to do or how to do it.

to better conditions, but I didn't know what to do or how to do it.

Jane Felt the Burden.

Jane never said much about it, but I know now, as I must have realized then, that this thing preyed heavily on her mind. I think I have spoken several times about the change that has come over Jane since we moved to the country. In the city she always was quiet and reserved, and seemed to shrink from contact with people, especially from making new acquaintances. The thing that made her so, I have no doubt, was the same thing that made me sullen and irritable by turns, that made drudgery of my daily work and troubled my sleep at night. Since coming to the country Jane has blossomed for think any one would accuse her today of shyness or excessive reserve. Certainly, I am no longer sullen, and I am not often irritable. On the contrary, I am what our British friends On the conam not often irritable. Concerned Over Popcorn.

Jim and Ned are very much concerned over their popcorn venture, but as it was planted rather late I don't think it has suffered any so far from the lack of warmth. They have made a force of the lack of warmth of the lack of warmth. They have made a force of the lack of warmth of the lack of the lac hands. There is a lot to be done before I can give up my government job and depend on the eighteen acres to feed and clothe my family and educate the children. Twelve of the eighteen acres is not farm land at all, within any practical meaning of that term. Some of it is covered with timber, some with brush and briars, and some that is clear is clear only because the soil.

# Tenant House to Be First.

One of the first buildings to be erected will be a tenant house, which I plan to start next month. Starting last Tuesday, Lee Custis became a regular, as the house is ready for occupancy. She has been the family laundress eve She has been the family laundress ever are for the protection of the autoist since we moved to the country, and himself, warning him to slow down to Jane says she is a good worker and seems to be honest. Jane wanted her an outgoing fire company. Jane says she is a good worker and seems to be honest. Jane wanted her to start in this week as cook, but Mandy insisted she had to stay home to keep "low-down niggers" from stealing her chickens and garden stuff.

Lee is going to work my corn and potatoes for me, and the rest of his time is to be spent in clearing tunber and brush land. The temptation was strong to land. The temptation was strong to turn over to him part of the garden

to farm life and isn't afraid of the work that goes with it. He says he wants to be a farmer, and it he is of the same mind when he has completed high school I am going to give him a course in the agricultural college at Cornell or some equally good institution.

I am fully convinced that agriculture of the coming generation fully equal to those in any other walk of life, and I am fully convinced that agriculture offers opportunities to the young men of the coming generation fully equal to those in any other walk of life, and far superior to those of the law and medicine and other overcrowded "learned" professions. And the calling of the farmer, I am equally convince, is going to command the respect it had fifty or a hundred years ago, before the terms "rube" and "hayseed" were invented.

Farmer to Be a Scientist.

The day of the "soil robber" is about gone, and the farmer of the future, to be successful, will need to be an educated business man and a scientist. When the people of this country awaken to the fact that the days of easy and cheap food are gone forever they are going to formulate a very different opinion of the man who tills the soil.

Nor are my plans for the future limited to the futures of Jim and Ned. I have a well developed and growing "hunch" that the day is coming when I will make my own living from the soil, and enjoy the independence and state of land anywhere between that idea has been abandoned. The chickens overlapped and were interwoven that idea has been abandoned. The chickens overlapped and were interwoven of the general farm program and for a number of years, at least, probably will be our chief source of revenue. The chickens overlapped and were neterwoven the chickens overlapped and were netwoven that it didn't seem practical to handle them as a side line.

Thi

Maine and California. What we have got to do is to specialize and intensify. The specialization must take account of soil, market and climatic conditions and the intensification must have respect for the man on the job.

Now that Sunny Knoll consists of eighteen acres instead of eight, it has taken on new and inviting possibilities. I have been studying up on the subject and consulted experienced men and I have yet to find one who doesn't tell me that I can make a good living and something besides on my eighteen acres when I have them all cleared and ready for cultivation and necessary improvements made.

These experienced men agree also in urging me not to be in too big a hurry. Boiled down and averaged up, their advice is about as follows: Get all my tillable land cleaged and in a good state of fertility; get all fencing done and necessary buildings erected; decide on a program that I know I will like and stick to; have a working capital, in stock, implements and half-cash, of not less than \$50 an acre, then cut loose and go ahead.

Five Years to Get Ready. strong when I say there are as many different kinds of farmers as there are doctors, and you'll admit that gives the husbandman a pretty wide range of

the needs of the farmer. It might been worse, of course; but there any denial that it might have been aloused of chronic weather grouches. It sy, so their critics say, is either too or too dry, or too hot or too cold, the don't be in too big a hurry, you to hot or too cold. long ago recovered from that "hen madness" which induces city people bitten by the country bug to look upon chickens as a royal road to riches. If ever we dreamed such dreams as \$5 per year profit per hen we woke up early in the game. We are proceeding on the assumption that by sensible and prudent management we can make \$1 per year profit per hen. With that as our goal we are going to have our our goal we are going to have our plant on a 1,000-hen basis as soon as we think we can get it there safely. It is not to be enlarged beyond that unis not to be enlarged beyond that un-less it demonstrates, after several years on the 1,000-hen basis, that it will pay us to make poultry our prin-cipal business. I like chickens, but I like cows better. If chickens are to have the preference they must prove their worth.

### Cow and Her Combination.

Eighteen acres of land, of course, i not sufficient for a dairy farm, if cows are to be depended upon as the chief source of revenue, but chickens and cows seems to be a combination that ught to work well. We plan to raise sufficient corn, oats and wheat, so that sufficient corn, oats and wheat, so that we will not have to buy any grain for the hens, but we must have something else to feed, either cows or hogs, in order to use up waste material. I would like to try the experiment of keeping five or six cows. Under the arrangement proposed by Mr. Brown, to buy our cream to help fill the contract he has made with an ice cream factory, we would have all our skim milk, which is a mighty valuable food both for chickens and for pigs. Keeping that number of cows certainly would be chickens and for pigs. Keeping that number of cows certainly would be profitable and would add to the fertility of our land, but the question to be solved is whether more money could not be made by devoting an equal amount of labor to the care of an additional number of hens.

I have been devoting considerable time to the project for a co-operative poultry association, which we had under consideration last winter, and I am meeting with considerable encourage-

der consideration last winter, and I am meeting with considerable encouragement. The original notion of co-operative selling of general produce through the Friendly Neighbors' Club didn't pan out, chiefly because of conflicting interests and the utter lack of uniformity in produce and pack.

the Friendly Neighbor's Could differ pan combon when he returned from a trip to the Friendly Neighbor's Could on the part of the for sportmen landed many of them.

But these fundamental objections would not apply to a poultry association. Poultrymen have but two things tion. Poultrymen have but two things of him and his colored hires to the largest one of his string I'd be privated by the largest one of his string I'd be plant we had under discussifing plant of the private had been reason for trouble on that score, and as the plant we had under discussifing plant to the plant we had to the plant we had to the plant we had the plant we had to th



with brush and briars, and some that is clear is clear only because the soil is so poor and thin it will hardly grow ragweed. It is going to take work and money and time to make these acres productive, and it will take more work and money and time to build fences and put up needed buildings.

To warning devices and a committee is now making comparisons with a view to selecting a warning which a view to selecting a warning which a to be the least obnoxious to the ear. Previously to this the autoists of this region backed a movement for placing warning signs at the beginning of all places surrounding which a quiet zone was desirable. The hospitals were encircled about a block away with con spicuous signs surmounting white posts. A red cross and the two words, "Hospital—Quiet," were judged suffi-cient to warn the most careless autoist against unnecessary noise in that vi-cinity. A similar arrangement with the sign, "School—Careful," about a block Tuesday, Lee Custis became a regular, clinity. A similar at a block all-the-year-around hired man at Sunny Knoll. The tenant house I am going to build is for him and his wife Mandy, against which both teachers and chilwho is to become Jane's cook as soon struggling.
The signs placed near a fire station

fascination than the wandering gypsy. turn over to him part of the garden work and the milking, but I resisted it. I hope the time will come when I can ease up on the hard work and spend my time more profitably overseeing hired help, but I know that time has not yet arrived and I couldn't very well reconcile a life of ease with all there is to be done before we can issue our "declaration of independence."

No Loafing for Jane.

Besides, Jane isn't planning to become a loafer simply because she is going to have help in the kitchen. Her jelly-ling hitter and yon in the open air ap-In it was the fearsome as well. Meas

the world outside beckoned so invitingly to the spirit of youth, no compulsion to do aught else than fancy prompted. Nor has this envy of the gypsy freedom been confined to the young. There is many a moment in mature life when the thought of drifting hither and yon in the open air appeals strongly to the man who is chained to office or factory. To have the power to move or to tarry as you will, to have a home wherever you choose to light a campfire, to see the world and all that in it lies, these are not unpleasant thoughts to the person burdened with the daily round of dutes.

To the gypsy the things that harass and worry the normal life are but the merest bubbles in the air. To him there is no such thing as the high cost of living. Taxes are as unknown to him as the irregularities of the Greek verb. Not even the income tax can mar his pleasure in life. In the gypsy lexicon there is no such thing as rent. He is above the conventionalities that hedge us about. He is free from responsibilities of every type and kind. Panics pass him by, and good times and hard times are to him just the same. But like the other things of the world that smack of freedom and irresponsibilities of every type and kind. Panics pass him by, and good times and hard times are to him just the same. But like the other things of the world that smack of freedom and irresponsibilities of leading and the local training to the gypsy is fast disappearing. Like the lindian and the buffalo and other in the day afternoon. Sunday he was an the river the saw anglers having great the day afternoon. Sunday he was an the river the saw anglers having great the train reflex that he day afternoon. Sunday he was an the river spould condition, where he saw anglers having great the fast and where he saw anglers having great the train reflex to the river spould condition. The said, and he had to differ the power to move or to tarry as you choose to light a campfire, to see the world have the probably is a good thing and the best water. It was further that the

Ella-The docto doctor says it's





ASAD H. SAHDALA, With forty-seven and one-half pounds of rockfish caught at Fletcher's.

said the sportsman, a tugboat came along and spolled the game.

Enthusiastic over the success of Sahdala, Will Reynolds and a party of friends made an early start Wednesday morning, the friends including W. C. Money, William White, Henry Tennyson and the man at the wheel never counts, "The man at the wheel never counts," are marked Will Reynolds. "He usually hears so many fish stories that he gets dispusted, and it's only when he sees the others reaping a harvest that he is the others reaping a harvest that he is the others reaping a harvest that he as the others reaping a harvest that he as the others reaping a harvest that he are the others reaping a harvest that he is the others reaping a harvest that he as the others reaping a harvest that he as the others reaping a harvest that he as the others reaping a harvest that he is the others reaping a harvest that he as the ot

himself, warning him to slow down to avoid the possibility of collision with an outgoing fire company.

Passing of the Gypsy.

Passing of the Gypsy.

From the Philadelphia Press.

There is nothing in the memory of youth that has more of the element of fascination than the wandering gypsy.

much as the pleasure of a strike, and it was not until the anchor was lifted from the sea of mud that they really knew Sahdala had left anything alive in the river.

A four-pound eel was found gilled about the anchor line. It had taken part of the line of some fisherman, probably the day before, and had been unable to rid itself of the fastening.

The line was recognized as similar to one that John W. Hurley used the day before, and it was recalled that something had taken part of it away, and the anglers concluded that the eel belonged to Hurley.

Sallons of gasoline.

Abie Rice, Keefer Devine and Leo Rice went to Benedict for a week-end outing on the Patuxent, and fearing they might be unable to locate the fish, they took with them a detective—E. W. Boyle.

"And I delivered the goods," said Bovie when he returned.

The quartet left the city at 4 o'clock in the morning and motored to Benedict by way of Brandywine and Hughesville, going through the five-mile stretch of sand on the other end, and reaching the river at 6:30 o'clock.

Asad J. Sahdala, prominent among surf fishermen along the New Jersey coast, probably was the happiest angler in Washington Tuesday afternoon when he returned from a trip to Fletcher's with a string of only four of them.

and reaching the river at 6:30 o'clock.

The water was in splendid condition, while the rain and wind made things

In the Potomac opened June 1, but fishing in the tributaries is not permitted until June 15, the time fixed for the opening of the bass season in Virginia and Montgomery county, Md.

Many bass fishermen, unable to engage in the sport tomorrow because of the condition of the river, have arranged trips to places on the salt water.

Charles R. Holman, who takes many fishing trips to Aquia creek, Va., has received a synopsis of the Virginia fish law. June 15 is the time fixed for the opening but as eager as ever to see all that was to be seen and to explore every hole and hollow they came to, but they had learned that very important lesson, caution, through the dreadful experiences of Frumpy and Grumpy, and they no longer poked their heads into holes until they had stopped to look and listen and make sure that there was no one there before them.

Every once in a while Bumpy would chuckle as he remembered how terribly frightened Frumpy and Grumpy had been.

Charles R. Holman, who takes many fishing trips to Aquia creek, Va., has received a synopsis of the Virginia fish law. June 15 is the time fixed for the opening of the bass season. Non-residents are not permitted to fish with other than hook and line.

ribly frightened Frumpy and Grumpy had been.

"Laugh if you want to," grumbled Grumpy. "It may seem funny to you, but it wasn't funny for us. And just watch out that we don't have a chance to laugh at you."

Then Bumpy chuckled harder than ever. He didn't say anything, but just made up his mind that he wouldn't give them a chance. He would be too smart to get into any such scrapes as his brothers had. Alas! How often it is that pride goes before a fall. It was to be that way with Bumpy, though he would not have believed it if he had been told.

Presently they came to a tree half way up which was a dark mass. It looked as if it might be an old nest. Right away Bumpy declared he was Mr. Holman received a letter from the Mr. Holman received a letter from the state game warden at Richmond thanking him for the interest he displayed in the matter of enforcement of the laws.

"When the season opens," said Holman, "there ought to be splendid sport enjoyed on Aquia creek. Bass and pike were plentiful there last season, and the protection given there this season should make them even more plentiful." ven more plentiful."

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Laird, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Chamberlin and Capt. J. M. Laird and Mrs. Laird were members of a weekend party at Rock Point. They fished the middle ground and White's point in the Wicomico and had splendid luck. "They caught 178 fish before dinner time," wrote F. X. Stonestreet, "and had the finest lot of perch, rockfish and hardheads that have been seen here by the oldest inhabitants."

William Wheeler, who caught the record rockfish three years ago, has not had much luck this season. He was on the river one day last week, however, and managed to land a nine-pound fish. Edward O. Craig caught a number of rockfish this week. His catch one day was a string of five, the largest weighing fourteen pounds and the next largest tipping the scales at twelve pounds.

ing the quality of our navy and the the porcupine, for an old nest. He was size of the regular army establishment. It has been the habit of public men, It has been the habit of public me the press and pulpit of the country f the press and pulpit of the country for many years to cry down every movement looking to the increase of either the army or the navy, and it has not been long since it was regarded as an unnecessary extravagance to provide for the building of even one battleship a year for the navy; as for the increase of the army—that was militarism gone mad. The other day there was a meeting of the Mohonk council for "peace and arbitration," and it appears to have been discovered that the best way to secure peace was not so much arbit and arbitration," and it appears to have been discovered that the best way to secure peace was not so much arbitration but the ability to enforce the decrees of arbitral courts. It was decided that it was all right to have an international court, but there will have to be likewise an international police establishment. The ruthless manner in which treaties and agreements have been violated and the easy-going way in which international law has been disregarded have convinced even the most highly emotional pacifists that something must be done to enforce the observance of international codes.

### Cross-Atlantic Flight. From the Fort Worth Record. Gabriel Voisin is a famous scientist

and manufacturer of aeroplanes. War has taught him something. He says that even now it is possible for an aviator to fly from France to America and he predicts the establishment of a regular aeroplane transatlantic serv

IT WAS PRICKLY PORKY THE

around and above it so that he could

The Three Little Possums

Meet Granny Fox.

from the old hollow tree where they

were born for so long that they felt

quite as if they had been out in the

Great World always. This was their

third day, and three days in strange places can seem like a very long time to little folks, you know. Bumpy was

still very sore from the bumps he had

got when he fell from the tree in

which he had mistaken Prickly Porky,

very quiet as he trudged along behind

the others. Somehow the frights that Frumpy and Grumpy had had when they poked their heads into hollow

trees and found others there before

them didn't seem funny at all now, Before his own fright he had chuckled

and chuckled every time he had

thought of how they had run. Now they

were chuckling at him, and he couldn't

Presently they came to the Lone Little

see anything funny in it at all.

days being one that weighed fourteen pounds. He landed twenty rockfish in three days, baiting with herring and one of the higher up the river when the water clearar, said the fisherman, "although this year, and they may linger here longer than we anticipate."

Dr. S. J. Cockerille, fishing from the shore near Fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been than the shore near Fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near Fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing two and a half pounds. He had been the shore near fletcher's, caught a base weighing the shore in the state of the lee' the lee' the lee' the lee' the lee' the lee' the high the shore in the state of the lee' the

# LEGEND

Granny Fox.

(Copyright, 1915, by Dr. Frank Crane.)

Legend is truer than history, History is what happened, legend is what ought

to have happened. History is an attempt to record facts. But who can be trusted to un-derstand a fact well enough to tell it? Sir Walter Raleigh set about once to write a history of the world; one day he saw an occurrence under his own windows, and afterward when he heard a half dozen discordant witnesses tell of it he was amused at his own temerity in presuming to record events

Who knows the secret springs of history, the story behind the story? We have Genesis, but the genesis of Genesis has disappeared forever. We have Matthew, but where is the sub-Matthew?

Matthew, but where is the sub-Matthew?

The forces behind history are as strange as those behind the inscrutable face of nature.

But in legend history becomes simple, understandable. It is a true picture of a race's inner life, of its dreams, ambitions, fears.

There is no history of Greece so true as its mythology. The people probably lived along, fought, loved and died, and struggled in the sordidness of circumstance, very much as we; but the best part of themselves were the golden fancles with which they populated the heavens, the seas, the woods and the dark.

dark.

Legend is tougher and longer lived than fact. Hercules and Perseus, Theseus and Orpheus are still vigorous personages in the world's mind, while the leading citizens that discussed the plays of Eschylus are vanished into thin air.

Besides, to tell the truth is difficult; it is an art few have mestered it.

PORCUPINE.

Besides, to tell the truth is difficult: it is an art few have mastered. It is in its purely imaginative work a people most truly expresses itself. So Wagner went to myth and not to recorded history for his motifs. There is more truth about the English people in Percy's Reliques than in Macaulay's history.

It was very rough. It seemed to be made of little sharp sticks, queer look-ing little sticks, and something that looked like hair mixed with them. Those sharp, little sticks were like long, very long thorns. Bumpy touched one of them, and it pricked him so that he cried "Ouch!"

Then he decided that he would climb around and above it so that he could lead the decided that he could lead the decided that he could lead to the cast and the oak.

Famous Rat Catcher.

John Dalton made a fortune as a rat catcher, and died wealthy at the age of ninety-one

around and above it so that he could look down into it. He had just started to do this when suddenly without warning at all that old nest shook itself so that all those queer little sticks rattled. It frightened Bumpy so that he forgot where he was and let go his hold. Down he tumbled, bumpity-thumpity-thumpity-bump, hitting one branch after another. He was almost to the ground when he managed to dig his claws into the bark and hang on. Then the worst frightened little Possum in all the Green Forest looked up to see a big, strange looking ani-For 200 years the Dalton family have been rat catchers, and were awarded many fat contracts for ridding wharves, ships, warehouses and other premises of rats. They claim to pos-sess a secret method passed down from father to son and carefully guarded. Possum in all the Green Forest looked up to see a big, strange looking animal looking down at him and grinning. It was Prickly Porky the Porcupine, who had been curled up in a crotch of the tree taking a nap.

And down on the ground Grumpy and Frumpy were rolling over and over with laughter. Mr. Dalton rode in a fine carriage and kept a coachman. He could occasionally be seen coming out of a building carrying a bag of rats in his hand,

carrying a bag of rats in his hand, which he handed to his coachman, and, it may be guessed, washed his hands of them at once.

The rat is the worst animal enemy of the human race. He is the most cunning of beasts. He can live wherever man can exist, and has learned to meet human intellect with a resourcefulness as great as human efficiency. He ruins billions of property yearly. Bumpy, Grumpy and Frumpy, the three little possums who were out to see the Great World, had been away from the old hollow tree where they

If there is a secret method by which the rat can be vanquished the govern-ment could do no better work than to pay for it and make it public. Prob-ably the proposal to endow a chair of rat-catching in our colleges would be laughed out of court, but there are many !carned doctors who would be better employed than they are now if they were discharging well the duties of Dalton, professor of rodent extermi-

### "Made in U. S. A." From the Springfield Republican. It is bad enough to have the Ger-

mans hate us because their enemies can buy war supplies in this country, but what shall we come to if the allies also learn to hate us because we cheat them on the supplies we sell. The Dry Goods Economist is publishing this Goods Economist is publishing this week the statement "that boots furnished to the French government proved to be of such inferior quality that the soldiers fore them into strips and that 200,000 pairs of socks purchased from American mills were found to be 30 per cent wool and 70 per cent cotton instead of the mixture being the other way around." he other way around."
Regrettable as such disgusting ras-

cality must seem to every honorable citizen of the United States, the Econo-mist adds that "there is no reason to citizen of the United States, the Economist adds that "there is no reason to doubt" the statement it publishes. The revelation is, perhaps, the more disquieting because our American-made shells have earned a reputation within the German lines of being a deadly product; they kill every time.

The army contractor in the civil war earned no enviable reputation among northern soldiers who had to wear his boots and uniforms and sleep under his blankets. In the Spanish war American canned beef became a national scandal. But those matters were all at home and could be disposed of as family affairs. This is different. "Made in U. S. A." should not become in European countries a synonym of fraud on account of the inveterate scoundrelism of a few American manufacturers taking unholy advantage of the necessities of hard pressed foreign governments.

wednesday, but muddy water made it would not become in European divisable for him to seek other recreation. His largest fish weighed twelve pounds.

A. Julian Brylawski and Fulton Brylawski and Fulton Brylawski and Fulton Brylawski and Edward Bennett, Baltimore the atrical men, were at Wachapreague, Accomac county, Va., on a fishing trip. They experienced splendid luck and were sorry when their short vaccion of the older fishermen vening the appearance of a mud puddle, trip ended.

Fulton Brylawski landed a drumfish his brother hung a big one and lost it. "Wachapreague is a delightful place," said Julian Brylawski, "and there are of freedom and irresponsibility, the gypsy is fast disappearing. Like the Indian and the buffalo and other institutions of the America of the past he is fading away. The Perfect Cure. Mother-Ella, what has happened to